

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 03819 011256Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9277
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3819

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AR, CI
SUBJECT: BEAGLE CHANNEL TALKS - GOC NAMES PHASE TWO DELEGATION

1. A FOREIGN MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 19 IDENTIFIED THE NINE MEMBERS TO SERVE ON THE GOC DELEGATION FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF THE BEAGLE CHANNEL TALKS WITH ARGENTINA. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEBRUARY 20 AGREEMENT OF PUERTO MONTT, THIS SECOND PHASE IS TO LAST UP TO SIX MONTHS AND TO PROPOSE SOLUTIONS TO THE MAJOR ISSUES AT STAKE. TALKS BEGIN IN BEUENOS AIRES MAY 22.

2. HEADING THE GOC DELEGATION WITH THE RANK OF SPECIAL AMBASSADOR WILL BE FRANCISCO ORREGO VICUNA, A CIVILIAN, DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND DEPUTY HEAD OF CHILE'S DELEGATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEAS CONFERENCE. OTHER DELEGATION MEMBERS INCLUDE: ARMY GENERAL LUIS RAMIREZ (DEPUTY HEAD), AIR FORCE GENERAL GULLERMO KAEMPFER, NAVY CAPTAIN GERMAN GUESALAGA, RICARDO RIVADENEIRA (A FOREIGN MINISTRY CONTRACT LAWYER), GERMAN CARRASCO, CARLOS BUSTOS, PATRICIO POZO, AND MARCELO PADILLA. THE LAST FOUR ARE CAREER FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE MINISTRY.

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3. COMMENT: ORREGO ENJOYS AN EXCELLENT LOCAL REPUTATION, MAINTAINING THE RESPECT OF BOTH FRIENDS AND CRITICS OF THE CURRENT REGIME. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE GOC ASKED HIM TO BE THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR TO BUENOS AIRES, REPLACING ROJAS GOLDAMES. ORREGO TURNED THE OFFER DOWN, SAYING THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO LEAVE HIS INSTITUTE AT THIS TIME. THE PRESENT ASSIGNMENT, INVOLVING PERIODIC MEETINGS IN

BUENOS AIRES AND SANTIAGO WILL NOT REQUIRE LEAVE OF
ABSENCE OR RESIGNATION.

4. AFTER A PERIOD IN WHICH THE MILITARY (ON BOTH SIDES)
DOMINATED THE BEAGLE TALKS, CHILE AT LEAST HAS NOW RE-
VERTED TO CIVILIAN LEADERSHIP. WE ARE STRUCK ALSO BY THE
INCREASED VISIBILITY OF FOREIGN MINISTRY CAREER DIPLOMATS.
INDEED, A FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNING OFFICER TOLD US MAY 19
THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE TALKS FROM HERE
ON RESTS WITH THE MINISTRY. NEW CIVILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
HERNAN CUBILLOS IS APPARENTLY MAKING HIS INFLUENCE FELT.
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Message Attributes

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